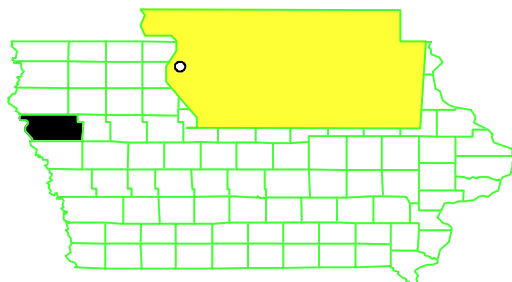


**MID-AMERICA TANNING  
CO.  
IOWA  
EPA ID# IAD085824688**

**EPA Region 7  
City: 5 miles south of Sergeant  
Bluff  
County: Woodbury County  
Other Names:**



## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Mid-America Tanning Company site, located south of Sergeant Bluff, covers approximately 100 acres and has processed hides under several names since 1969. In 1979, the Mid-America Tanning Company disposed of an estimated 1,300 cubic yards of tannery sludges containing chromium into two unlined trenches on the property. U.S. Tanning acquired the operation in 1985. Wastes were treated on site. Solids were settled out in concrete-lined basins and unlined impoundments, while liquids were chemically treated and then discharged into an oxbow lake. The site is in the Missouri River flood plain. Approximately 85 people live within 1-mile radius of the site, and 850 people live within 3 miles.

### **Site Responsibility:**

This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

### **NPL LISTING HISTORY**

**Proposed Date:** 06/24/88

**Final Date:** 03/30/89

**Deleted Date:**

## **THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS**

### **Description:**

Soil is contaminated with heavy metals including chromium. On-site

impoundment lagoons contain contaminated sludge and water. Impoundment sludges may emit dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide gas if distributed. On-site monitoring wells indicate that the groundwater maybe contaminated with heavy metals including arsenic, barium, chromium, lead, and cadmium from the former process waste disposal practices. The sediments and surface water of the oxbow lake contain elevated levels of heavy metals. The groundwater, used by local residents as a drinking water supply, may be polluted with heavy metals and could be hazardous to public health. Approximately 2 miles south of the site is a wetland used as a nesting site for the piping plover, an endangered species.

## **CLEANUP APPROACH**

### **Response Action Status**

**Initial Actions:** In 1990, the EPA excavated approximately 1,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sludge from on-site burial pits. This material later will be immobilized as part of the final cleanup remedy. Where possible, the EPA removed any raw materials found on site and recycled them. These cleanup actions were completed in late 1991. In the spring of 1995, a potentially responsible party completed the removal of drum wastes, cleaned two buildings, and secured other buildings on the site.

**Soil:** Due to financial difficulties encountered by the potentially responsible party in early 1990, the EPA initiated studies into the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The EPA completed these investigations in late 1991 and chose on-site immobilization of heavily contaminated soil and sludge and capping of contaminated areas as the final cleanup remedy. Design of these cleanup remedies began in 1992 and were completed in September 1993. The additional threat of hydrogen sulfide gas emanating from the sludge was discovered during site investigations conducted in the fall of 1992. Due to potential for release of unacceptable levels of hydrogen sulfide gas, EPA amended the original remedy to address this threat. EPA is currently revising the design and cleanup activities are expected to begin in 1998.

**Groundwater and Surface Water:** The EPA is planning to investigate the nature and extent of groundwater and surface water contamination, following which cleanup remedies will be selected.

### **Description:**

**Site Facts:** The EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to a potentially responsible party in late 1989. Due to financial difficulties, the party did not comply with the initial actions specified in the Order. Another responsible party was ordered to secure site buildings, remove drummed wastes, and clean two buildings. The EPA entered into a Consent Decree (CD) in 1998 with two of the potentially

responsible parties for settlement of past and future costs. As part of that settlement one of the PRPs agreed to conduct a ground water study.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS**



The EPA has completed initial actions to address elevated levels of cadmium, arsenic, barium, and lead in the groundwater by excavating and consolidating buried sludges, abandoned chemicals, and tanning solutions. These actions will contain the source of contamination and will reduce the potential for direct contact with hazardous wastes onsite until final cleanup is conducted.

## SITE REPOSITORY



Sergeant Bluff City Hall, 401 Fourth  
Street, Sergeant Bluff, IA 54054

Superfund Records Center  
726 Minnesota Ave  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Mail Stop SUPR  
(913)551-4038

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

**SITE MANAGER:**

Debra Morey

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

morey.debi@www.epamail.gov  
(913) 551-7593

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**COORDINATOR:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER:**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

**STATE CONTACT:**

Robert Drustrup

**PHONE NUMBER:**

(515) 281-8900

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**STATE:**

**PACIFIC ISLAND(S):**

077M

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**

05

**EPA ORGANIZATION:**

SFD-IANE/SUPR

## MODIFICATIONS